

# THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

September 2021



## NOTES FROM REV. DAN

First things first – here is our plan for the early Fall:

- September services, with exception of September 19 (weather permitting), will remain online while we wait to see the impact of the beginning of school on local COVID numbers.
- For September 19 we are working on a special outdoor all ages service, weather permitting, location to be announced. Please check *Connections* and your email for updates.
- Religious education for children and youth will begin in October. (We could use some additional teachers and assistants – please write to email: **DLFD** if you can help.) Please see Cassie Lengel's column for more details.
- Prior to the October newsletter deadline, we will analyze the situation and make determinations for our October services, following UUA recommendations and CDC guidance. Any indoor services in October will be limited attendance, ventilated from the outside, be fully masked, and have no hymn singing. These services will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.
- Small and medium sized groups of vaccinated people may gather at the congregation, in the larger spaces and with masks.
- Other outdoor events are welcome.
- We request and expect that all who attend in-person UCWC events be vaccinated, if eligible. All plans are of course subject to change depending on COVID transmission levels in Chester County.

I imagine many of you, like me, have mixed feelings about all of this. We'd hoped that COVID levels would be so low we'd not only meet in our sanctuary every week, but we'd be able to sing hymns together and shake the rafters. Frankly, we wanted to be done with all this, and there's real grieving – with all its phases of denial, anger, bargaining, resentment and acceptance – that comes with the realization that the Delta variant has changed the calculus.

At the same time, we are not where we were a year ago. Doctors know more and have better treatment options for those who do get sick. Because Chester county has a relatively high vaccination rate, our local hospitals are not overwhelmed. We take the steps we do because our Unitarian Universalist values lead us to protect children and others who are unable to be vaccinated, or who are at higher risk, and to put as swift an end to this pandemic as possible.

Despite Delta, we can connect with each other in many of the ways we've been craving for a long time – just not all of the ways. This Fall will be a season for connection, for creativity, and for renewing our commitment to one another, our congregation, and our community.

At our annual meeting in June, we unanimously approved the following Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to:

- Grow in spirit, heart, and mind
- Love through care and community
- Serve beyond ourselves

Delta or no Delta, that is exactly what we will do.

In faith, Dan

## Our Mission

*Our mission is to:*

*GROW in spirit,  
heart and mind*

*LOVE through care  
and community*

*SERVE beyond  
ourselves*



A Welcoming  
Congregation

501 South High Street  
West Chester PA 19382  
610-692-5966  
[office@ucwc.org](mailto:office@ucwc.org)  
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## Sunday Services



*We gather, aspiring to be a thriving, caring, and welcoming community that supports each person's spiritual journey, embraces diversity, challenges us to live responsibly, and is a catalyst for a just and compassionate world.*

***Note: Our September services will be held online, with the hoped for exception of an outdoor September 19 ingathering service.***

**Sep 5 10 am STEWARDSHIP OF THE WEB OF LIFE Nancy Bell  
IN OUR OWN BACKYARDS**

Nancy is the Education and Garden Coach Coordinator at Gateway Garden Center in Hockessin. She has developed a lifelong fascination and passion for all things nature into a career in horticulture. Nancy has achieved Longwood Gardens' Certificate of Merit in Ornamental Horticulture – Level 1 and Level 2, and Certificate of Merit in Landscape Design and is a Delaware Certified Nursery Professional with specialties in Landscape Design and Retail.

Nancy was involved in the complete restoration of the pond and creek bed at Fenimore Woods in Radnor PA, and developed and led the Outdoor Education camps for the Upper Main Line YMCA. Nancy is the former host of The Garden Clinic, a radio call in talk show on WDEL 1150AM and 101.7 FM, on Saturday mornings during the spring and fall. She was also a frequent guest on NBC's 'The 10! Show' in Philadelphia and is an instructor at both Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA and Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, DE.

She is an avid Master Gardener, through the New Castle County Cooperative Extension at the University of Delaware since 2004. She has developed and led adult workshops on Landscaping with Ornamental Grasses, Native Plants, Edible Landscaping, and Gardening for Wildlife, which address landscape designs that promote healthy ecosystems in the average homeowner's backyard. Her own yard is certified as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

**Sep 12 10 am WHAT REALLY MATTERS Rev. Dan Schatz**

The Jewish High Holy Days are a time for looking inward, taking stock, and turning toward what matters most in our lives.

**Sep 19 10 am ALL AGES IN-PERSON  
INGATHERING SERVICE  
(WEATHER PERMITTING)**

For this service, we are planning an *in person* all ages ingathering service at an outdoor location to be announced. We will stream the service for those who cannot attend in person, either live or later in the afternoon. Come celebrate with our people!

**Sep 26 10 am HOLD PLEASE Rev. Dan Schatz**

Have you ever been stuck on hold for way too long? Have you felt that way in recent months? This Sunday we'll reflect on how we keep our sanity, spirit, and sense of humor when our lives are on hold.

## From the President

Thanks to all who responded to our survey this month about resuming in-person services. The 85 answers were very helpful for deciding how best to proceed, given the higher degree of risk posed by the new Delta COVID variant. (Rev. Dan's message has the details on our current plans.)



Everyone who answered the question about vaccination status is fully vaccinated – 100%! Thank you all for doing your part to create a strong level of protection for us all when we do gather.

But there was still some hesitation about attending worship in-person, with 54% taking a wait and see approach, while 9% would continue to worship virtually. A tad more than a third – 35% – said they would definitely attend in-person.

There was strong interest in coming to an outdoor service, provided that good parking and cover for rain is available. Some 60% of you said you'd be "likely" or "somewhat likely" to attend, with another 25% saying it depends.

Early on, any re-opening will require us to limit seating. There was strong support for a reservation system that allocates most but not all the available seats (74% approval).

The highly transmissible Delta variant poses a particular challenge for protecting our youth under age 12, who cannot yet be vaccinated. In our very limited physical space, there's still a worrisome level of risk for them, even if all others around them are vaccinated and masked. There was strong support for making alternative RE arrangements so that those youths are exposed to fewer people (90% approval).

As is natural to expect, COVID restrictions have weakened our sense of connection as a faith community with 63% reporting feeling "somewhat weaker" connections, and 18% reporting "much weaker." Just a handful found that our virtual operations have strengthened their connection. Nonetheless, we can all take great pride in the fact we are still here for each other, still striving as a faith community to overcome the hurdles COVID poses for us.

Bottom line from the survey: You definitely hunger for chances to gather in person and renew our bonds as a faith community. But you want to do so without encountering serious health risks, especially for our youth who cannot be vaccinated. We will use that touchstone in our decisions this fall, as we confront the ever-changing challenges inflicted by COVID.

***Bottom line:  
You definitely  
hunger for  
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gather in person  
and renew our  
bonds as a faith  
community.***

***But you want  
to do so without  
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risks.***

### Minister's Office Hours

This fall Dan will again be able to meet in person with congregation members on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday afternoons, either at the congregation or at an outdoor location we arrange. He can be reached by email at email: [minister](#) or on his cell phone at 484-653-5011.

**THE AUCTION  
IS COMING!**

**SEE PAGE 7**

# Lifespan Faith Development

## Plans for Religious Education for Children and Youth 2021-22

Thank you all for your patience and flexibility in the face of uncertainty. Our RE Program for this year will be slightly delayed until October to help focus on how we are gathering again and to allow our families to settle into a new school year.

As we go through this year our plans are fluid as the situation changes due to health, weather, interest, etc. Our RE classes will begin this year via zoom with opportunities for fun and outdoor events when possible.

We will not have our children under 12 meeting indoors for now, and we are not offering our nursery until it is safer to do so. Our children and youth are welcome to attend our worship services with their families, and we are hoping for some special Intergenerational services coming up.

## Youth Group Planning

We invite our High School youth to join us on Sunday, September 19 at 7:00 pm for a brainstorming session to see what interests you for this year's Youth Group. We are so excited that you have had access to the vaccine and are looking forward to some in-person events. We'd love to hear from you, even if you're not sure if you can make it throughout the whole year. Join us to see what's being planned and bring ideas and wishes. Contact email: **DLFD** with questions.

## Children and Youth RE Open House

Parents, children, and youth are invited to join us on Zoom at 9:00 am before the service on October 3 for an open time for Q&A as we begin another new religious education program year here at UCWC.

Learn more about our plans, share your needs and gifts with other families, explore our new theme and how it affects our learning community, and discover new ways to stay connected. You've got a lot on your plates right now. Let's make RE easy and lifegiving — come find out how. RSVP and send questions to email: **DLFD**.

## REflections: Religious Education Update

Grow, Love, and Serve. These three simple words, with their deep meaning, were approved as our mission statement here at UCWC this spring. These touchstones remind us of where we've been, how we've come here, why we've stayed, where we want to go, and just who our community is trying to be for ourselves and the world. Grow, Love, and Serve — but I'd like to add one more word for us to consider this year. Belong.



For a year and a half, we have been stuck in a state of uncertainty, changing standards, making and changing plans in this pandemic. We've all been through trauma and heartbreak as well as hope and expectation. Many of us have hunkered down, conserved energy, and settled in to wait. Many of us have given extra to try to care for those around us, and none of us expected or wanted to still be in this place after a year and a half.

So it's time for us, as tired and burned out as we are, to consider why do we gather together? Why do we seek and need a community? Why do we gather here at UCWC? What is different about our lives and what do we gain when we invest in this gathering? What do we need, and what do we offer? What does it mean for us to want to Grow, Love, and Serve? This year's theme — what it means to Belong — will explore these questions.

As Unitarian Universalists we believe that great good comes from great diversity. We believe that all people have inherent worth and dignity, and that we are all interconnected. We practice inclusion and work to make our spaces as brave and safe as possible.

Because of this, I believe that we all Belong here. That Belonging is about supporting one another. It's about relationships. It's about respect and curiosity and working to make the world a better place. I believe that this community means something — that we are called to Grow, Love and Serve together — and that you and I Belong here.

— Cassie Lengel



## OWL Parent's Meeting

This year we are working to facilitate our "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) Program for our 8th and 9th graders. This program engages our youth in a safe and fun learning environment about the various aspects of positive sexuality. OWL offers our youth a safe space with trained facilitators to explore topics, ask questions, and build a positive relationship and understanding of their bodies.

We will cover the basics of sexual education and look deeper at our UU values and influences — thinking about healthy relationships, how we use internet/media appropriately, sexual orientation and gender identity, and more. If your youth will be in 8th or 9th grade this year, we invite you as their parents to attend a meeting to learn more about the program. Join us on September 26 at 7:00 pm, and reach out to Cassie at email: [DLFD](#) with any questions.



## Adult RE Open House

Wondering what we're doing for Adult RE this year? Join us on Zoom as we explore some of our plans and ideas to bring to our wonderful community of learning.

We've had a lot of feedback and wishes for things we could do together. We'd love to offer lifegiving opportunities to connect with one another and deepen our spiritual journeys in this community where we Belong.

We also understand that many of us are tired and burned out from the uncertainty of the pandemic; some of us need to reconnect in-person and some of us would still prefer to be on Zoom. Let's discuss what your needs and gifts are, so we can collaborate on what we offer.

Join us on Tuesday September 21 at 7:00 pm on Zoom for this planning discussion. RSVP or send your ideas to email: [DLFD](#).

## Teacher Training

Thank you again to our valued and dedicated team of talented teachers this year. We are so grateful for your support in making RE happen for our children and youth. While many of you have taught with us before, we invite everyone to attend our teacher training to help remind us all of our best safety practices and to help prepare for another weird pandemic year.

This year we are emphasizing our theme of Belonging. We will have a stronger emphasis on relationships and how we gather together than on specific content as in past years. So we hope you will be able to attend join us on Zoom on Saturday, September 18 at 7:00 pm. If you have questions or cannot attend, please contact Cassie at email: [DLFD](#).

## RE Registration and Clearances

Calling all RE families and teachers! It's that time of year again. We invite you to fill out the online registration forms for each of your children who may be interested in attending RE this year.

With so many of our plans being fluid, it may benefit you to fill out the **registration form** so we have their information even if you're not sure which things they will attend yet. We hope to have opportunities for Zoom and in-person fun and learning.

For our lovely teachers, we'd love to make sure your clearances are all up to date. Please watch your emails and fill out any necessary forms — thank you. If you have any questions about registering or which clearances are due reach out to email: [DLFD](#).



## Call for Volunteers

We want YOU...yes, YOU. To join us in teaching RE this year. YOU have what it takes. We've got opportunities for in-person or zoom, fun or curricula-based — we've got it all. Yes, that's right, and there's no need to be jealous — just jump on in and join our great crew of teachers, assistants, facilitators, and helpers. No experience needed, just open minds and willing hands. Contact email: [DLFD](#) if you want to learn more.



## Ethical Discussion Group Based on "The Good Place"

### The Good Place



This Adult RE discussion group will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month to watch and discuss an episode(s) of the hit TV show on NBC, "The Good Place" and discuss its ethical questions. This show is hilarious, and it offers a fun way to discuss and explore our morals and values. RSVP to email: **Adult-RE** or join us for any session. We are finishing season 2 and beginning season 3 in August. We can lend the DVDs to help you catch up.

## Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Barbara Dallara**.



## RE Dates

Sep 1	7pm	The Good Place
Sep 7	7 pm	Men's Group
Sep 13	2pm	Small Group Ministry
Sep 15	7pm	The Good Place
Sep 18	7pm	Teacher Training
Sep 19	7pm	Youth Group Planning Meeting
Sep 21	7pm	Adult RE Open House
Sep 26	7pm	OWL Parent's Meeting
Sep 27	2pm	Small Group Ministry
Oct 3	9am	Children/Youth RE Zoom Open House
Oct 10	First week of RE classes	

## Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry is a way to gather with other Unitarian Universalists twice a month for community, conversation, and connection.

Each session is organized around a theme and includes a chalice lighting, readings, and questions to spark discussion. Groups are led by trained facilitators who meet regularly with Rev. Dan.

Currently, our congregation has five groups which meet at different times and places including a new group just getting started which meets on second and fourth Mondays at 2 pm.

If you are interested in joining a group, please contact email: **SGM**.

## New Small Group Ministry Opportunity

After a wonderful *Explorations* series this spring, we have decided to open up an additional small group for more folks who are interested. This group meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 2:00 pm and follows the same lessons as the other small groups.

Whether you're new to the congregation, or just haven't tried our small group ministry yet, you are welcome to join us. Contact email: **DLFD** for more information.

## Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on September 7 at 7 pm via Zoom. There will be various topics presented in the format of a "2-minute TED talk". The Zoom link will be sent out directly via email. All men are welcome. If you are interested in participating but are not yet on the email distribution list, please reach out to Mark or Dirk at email: **mens-group**.



# THE AUCTION IS COMING!

The 2021 Service Auction is just around the corner. The auction is an important fundraising event for UCWC and a great way to give and receive services.

## Timeline.

**October 1.** Deadline for submissions to be included in the auction catalog. Late submissions will be published in an addendum.

**October 9-23.** Online Silent Auction. Same format — Google Sheets — as last year with specific bidding hours.

**October 23 at 7 pm.** Hybrid Live Auction with Auctioneer Ed Cohle. Our hope is that you will have the choice of participating in person or virtually.



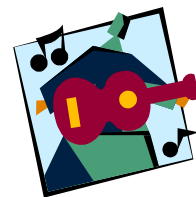
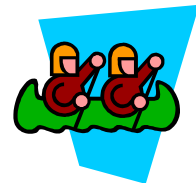
**Solicit a Business Donation.** This year, we are offering a free quarter-page ad in the catalog for any business donating to the auction. Take **this solicitation letter** to a local business and tell them about our offer. If they aren't ready to decide, follow up in a week. Your help in soliciting donations is greatly appreciated. There is no auction committee to do this.

**Plan Your Donation.** Here are some ideas: artwork, antiques, a group BBQ or picnic, home-baked bread/cookies/cake/pie, IT help, lessons, hand-crafted items, pet care, handyman services, carwash, lawn mowing, garden plants, a themed basket, use of a vacation home, frequent flyer miles, items of value in excellent condition.

**Enter Your Donation.** Use our convenient **online form** to submit a description of your donation (preferred), or send your description to email: **auction-donations** by October 1. Include a photo or some type of graphic if possible.

**Stay Up to Date on Auction News.** Check the weekly *Connections*, visit the **UCWC auction page**, and check the October *Fellowtarian*. Contact email: **auction** with questions, suggestions, or to help out. With your help, our auction will again be a big success.

**DONATE  
NOW...  
CLICK  
HERE!**



## Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

*Each event, each action is  
another stone in the wall  
of social justice.*

## Diversity Book Group

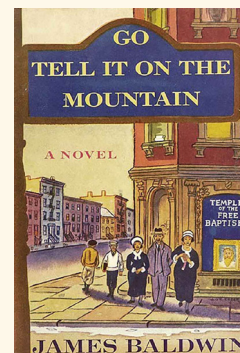
September 12 7:00-8:30 pm Zoom (unless we hear we can meet in person)

Leader: Pam Sapko

**Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin.** "This is the book I had to write if I was ever going to write anything else," is what James Baldwin said of his first novel, now a great American classic.

In a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in 1935, the minister's 14-year-old stepson comes to terms with who he is. Through this youthful protagonist's spiritual, sexual, and moral struggle of self-invention, expressed through prose that is lyrically precise, psychologically direct, filled with rage and symbolic power, both unrelenting and compassionate, Baldwin opened new possibilities for how Americans understand themselves.

Contact Debby Kern, email: [diversity-book-group](mailto:diversity-book-group).



## First Sunday Food Collection

In this time of social distancing, we are not collecting food on the first Sunday of each month.

However, as always, you can still make a financial donation — with no personal contact on your part.

We will buy grocery store gift cards and give them to the Food Cupboard.

Please make your check out to "UCWC" and write "Food Cupboard" in the memo line. Mail your check to:

Unitarian Congregation of West Chester  
501 South High Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

You can also donate to the Food Cupboard on the UCWC donation web page — click [here](#) and select "Grocery Cards for Food Cupboard." Contact Cyndy Bullaughey, email: [grocery-program](mailto:grocery-program), for more information.

The West Chester Food Cupboard commits to provide a variety of fresh and nonperishable healthy food items to anyone who resides in the West Chester school district...because no one should go hungry!



## Gun Violence Prevention

With a record number of guns sold the last few years, gun violence is on the rise nationally as well as in Pennsylvania. That is why members of our congregation, working through the UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention team, are urging our elected representatives to support the Common Agenda, three policies that would help reduce the carnage:

- Universal Background Checks. SB-88, HB-235.
- ERPO-Extreme Risk Protection Order. SB-134. There is no House bill yet.
- Report Lost or Stolen Guns. SB-21, HB-980.

If you are a constituent of the following legislators, please let him/her know you support these measures. (If you need coaching for your contact and/or are interested in joining our monthly zoom calls, please contact Tom Buglio, UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Liaison to UCWC.)



**Rep. Craig Williams**

**Rep. Chris Quinn**

**Sen. Katie Muth** - Thank her for her support.

**Sen. Tim Kearney** - Thank him for his support.

**Rep. Danielle Friel-Otten** - Thank her and ask her to cosponsor HB-980.

**Rep. Kristine Howard** - Thank her and ask her to cosponsor HB-980.

**Rep. Dianne Herrin** - Thank her and ask her to cosponsor HB-980.



## UCWC



### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM Team

On September 20 at 7 pm, there will be a Zoom presentation on youth aid panels (YAP's). Chester County District Attorney Deb Ryan, who is working to expand the use of YAP's in Chester County, will participate.

Youth aid panels give first time juvenile criminal offenders the option of appearing before a panel of community volunteers, rather than entering the juvenile court system.

A juvenile who completes the contractual obligations imposed by the panel will avoid the stigma and possible adverse effects of a criminal record. Juveniles who fail to complete their obligations are referred to court for criminal prosecution.

Click [here](#) to join the Zoom meeting.

**CJR Team Meeting - September 29 at 4:30 pm.** All members and friends of UCWC are welcome to attend. Topics: "Probation and Parole in Chester County" and "Youth Aid Panels", what we can do to support progress and positive change.

## UUSC Update

Charlot Barker

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) helps where needed in a variety of worldwide humanitarian causes.

Maybe you're aware of how they have mobilized to help the folks in Haiti that are victims of the earthquake and hurricane. The work they do is exceedingly important. The UUSC has hands-on knowledge of Haiti because they spent time with Haitians and helped as they rebuilt from the earthquake in 2010.

I know this personally because I was privileged to attend a trip organized by the UU College of Social Justice, a collaboration of UUSC and UUA. I saw the

extreme poverty. I felt the lack of clean water as only a trickle came out of the shower — water was very scarce to the local community.



I met folks who were working hard to provide for their families, played with their children, wanted them to go to school, had goals, achieved them, and worked to help others. The experience changed me, and I've devoted a focus of my life to helping people get access to clean water.

The UUSC helps directly as well as indirectly by inspiring others, including some right here in West Chester. **Your donation to UUSC's Haiti Relief Fund** will help important work. Thanks so very much.

## Black Lives Matter Anti-Racism Action of the Week

For the past year, the Black Lives Matter Committee has held monthly Anti-Racism Discussions. We have had interesting and rich conversations, but we are often left with the question, "What can I do?"

The Black Lives Matter committee is borrowing an idea from UUCDC Anti-Racism Coalition. We are going to offer a weekly "Anti-Racism Action" in **Connections**. Watch for action ideas beginning in September. BLM committee members look forward to hearing from you about what actions speak to you. Contact us at email: **[black-lives-matter](#)**.

## Calendar

All email addresses  
@ucwc.org

Click [HERE](#) to access our  
website main calendar,  
which includes late  
August events.

Sep 1	Wed	Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. See p. 6.
Sep 5	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 8.
Sep 7	Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. See p. 6.
Sep 12	Sun	Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. See p. 8.
Sep 15	Wed	Black Lives Matter Committee. 3:00 pm. See p. 9. Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. See p. 6.
Sep 16	Thu	Religious Education Committee. 4:30 pm.
Sep 18	Sat	RE Teacher Training Meeting. 7:00 pm. See p. 5.
Sep 19	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits <a href="#">Family Center</a> . Youth Group Planning Meeting. 7:00 pm. See p. 4.
Sep 20	Mon	Criminal Justice Team Panel Discussion. 7:00 pm See p. 9.
Sep 21	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Adult RE Open House. 7:00 pm. See p. 5.
Sep 26	Sun	OWL Parents Meeting. 7:00 pm. See p. 5.
Sep 29	Wed	Criminal Justice Reform Team. 4:30 pm. See p. 9.
Oct 1	Fri	Deadline for Auction Donations to Be in the Catalog. See p. 7.

### EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

2nd & 4th Monday	New Small Group Ministry. 2 pm. See p. 6.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:15 pm. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: <a href="#">choir</a> .
Saturdays	Open Zoom Session. 7:00 pm.
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See <a href="#">web calendar</a> or contact email: <a href="#">SGM</a> . See p. 6.

# THE AUCTION IS COMING!

## SEE PAGE 7



### zoom EVENTS LIST ONLINE

Zoom meetings on this calendar are,  
for the most part, password-protected.

A list of password-enabled links is on  
our website – on a password-protected  
page. (Access to that page will be  
distributed appropriately.)

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Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

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